

*Amendments to the Claims*

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled).

30. (Currently Amended) A carrying case comprising:

an enclosure defining an interior and having a substantially planar front wall, a substantially planar back wall, and an opening that provides access to said interior; and

a handle including first and second handle portions each comprising a first segment rotatably mounted on said enclosure on opposite sides of said opening, respectively, and a second segment connecting opposite ends of said first segment, said second segments having central longitudinal axes, respectively, defining parallel axes about which said first segments are rotatable, respectively, for movement between an engaged position, wherein said first segments are in abutment, and a fully disengaged position, wherein said first segments are separated from one another,

said first segments having mating surfaces, respectively, of complementary configurations to mate in said engaged position, wherein the ends of each of said first segments form a continuous curve beginning at the ends of said second segments and ending at said mating surfaces, and wherein said curve has a substantially concave curvature relative to a vertical plane extending from said opening through said mating surfaces ~~said ends of each of said first segments curving continuously inwardly and upwardly from said second segments, respectively, in the direction of said opening~~

in said engaged position, ~~whereby said first segments are disposed closely alongside said front and back walls, respectively, in said fully disengaged position.~~

31. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 30, wherein said opening is selectively openable and selectively closable.

32. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 30, wherein said opening comprises a zippered opening.

33. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 30, wherein said first segments comprise arcuate segments, respectively, and said second segments comprise straight segments, respectively.

34. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 30, wherein said mating surfaces comprise inner surfaces, respectively, of said first segments.

35. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 34, wherein said first segments have top surfaces, respectively, joined to said inner surfaces and forming lips, respectively, where said top surfaces join said inner surfaces, said lips being in abutment when said handle portions are in said engaged position.

36. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 30, wherein said mating surface of said first handle portion is configured as a protuberance and said mating surface of said second handle portion is configured as a cavity for receiving said protuberance.

37. (Currently Amended) The carrying case of claim 36, wherein said protuberance has a substantially convex curvature and said cavity has a substantially concave curvature resisting disengagement of said first and second handle portions from said engaged position.

38. (Currently Amended) The carrying case of claim 36, wherein said protuberance is substantially convexly curved and tapers in height and width in the direction of said ends of said first segment of said first handle portion.

39. (Currently Amended) The carrying case of claim 30, wherein said ends of each of said first segments curve from said second segments, respectively, at about a 45° angle in a direction towards said vertical plane in said engaged position.

40. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 30, wherein said second segments are mounted within sleeve formations on said enclosure.

41. (Currently Amended) A carrying case comprising:

an enclosure defining an interior and having a front and back wall and an opening that provides access to said interior; and

a handle including first and second handle portions each comprising a first segment rotatably mounted on said enclosure on opposite sides of said opening, respectively, and a second segment connecting opposite ends of said first segment, said second segments having central longitudinal axes, respectively, defining parallel axes about which said first segments are rotatable, respectively, for movement between an

engaged position, wherein said first segments are in abutment, and a fully disengaged position, wherein said first segments are separated from one another,

said first segments having mating surfaces, respectively, configured to mate in said engaged position, said mating surface of said first handle portion being configured as a protuberance and said mating surface of said second handle portion being configured as a cavity for receiving said protuberance in said engaged position, wherein the ends of each of said first segments form a continuous curve beginning at the ends of said second segments and ending at said mating surfaces, and wherein said curve has a substantially concave curvature relative to a vertical plane extending from said opening through said mating surfaces ~~said ends of each of said first segments curving continuously inwardly and upwardly from said second segments, respectively, in the direction of said opening in said engaged position, whereby said first segments are disposed closely alongside said front and back walls, respectively, in said fully disengaged position.~~

42. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 41, wherein said opening is selectively openable and selectively closable.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 41, wherein said first segments comprise arcuate segments, respectively, and said second segments comprise straight segments, respectively.

45. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 41, wherein said mating surfaces comprise inner surfaces, respectively, of said first segments.

46. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 45, wherein said first segments have top surfaces, respectively, joined to said inner surfaces and forming lips, respectively, where said top surfaces join said inner surfaces, said lips being in abutment when said handle portions are in said engaged position.

47. (Currently Amended) The carrying case of claim 41, wherein said protuberance has a substantially convex curvature and said cavity has a substantially concave curvature resisting disengagement of said first and second handle portions from said engaged position.

48. (Currently Amended) The carrying case of claim 41, wherein said protuberance is substantially convexly curved and tapers in height and width in the direction of said ends of said first segment of said first handle portion.

49. (Currently Amended) The carrying case of claim 41, wherein said ends of each of said first segments curve from said second segments, respectively, at about a 45° angle in a direction towards said vertical plane in said engaged position.

50. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 41, wherein said second segments are mounted within sleeve formations on said enclosure.

51. (Currently Amended) A carrying case comprising

an enclosure defining an interior and having a front wall, back wall, and a zippered opening permitting access to said interior; and

a handle including first and second handle portions each comprising a first segment rotatably mounted on said enclosure on opposite sides of said opening, respectively, and a second segment connecting opposite ends of said first segment, said second segments having central longitudinal axes, respectively, defining parallel axes about which said first segments are rotatable, respectively, for movement between an engaged position, wherein said first segments are in abutment, and a fully disengaged position, wherein said first segments are separated from one another,

said first segments each having mating means, respectively, for mating in said engaged position, wherein the ends of each of said first segments form a continuous curve beginning at the ends of said second segments and ending at said mating surfaces, and wherein said curve has a substantially concave curvature relative to a vertical plane extending from said opening through said mating surfaces ~~said ends of each of said first segments curving continuously inwardly and upwardly from said second segments, respectively, in the direction of said opening in said engaged position, whereby said first segments are disposed closely alongside said front and back walls, respectively, in said fully disengaged position.~~

52. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 51, wherein said first segments comprise arcuate segments, respectively, and said second segments comprise straight segments, respectively.

53. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 51, wherein said mating means of said first and second handle portions each comprise mating surfaces, respectively, of complementary configurations to mate in said engaged position.

54. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 53, wherein said mating surfaces comprise inner surfaces, respectively, of said first segments.

55. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 54, wherein said first segments have top surfaces, respectively, joined to said inner surfaces and forming lips, respectively, where said top surfaces join said inner surfaces, said lips being in abutment when said handle portions are in said engaged position.

56. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 53, wherein said mating surface of said first handle portion is configured as a protuberance and said mating surface of said second handle portion is configured as a cavity for receiving said protuberance.

57. (Currently Amended) The carrying case of claim 56 wherein said protuberance has a substantially convex curvature and said cavity has a substantially concave curvature resisting disengagement of said first and second handle portions from said engaged position.

58. (Currently Amended) The carrying case of claim 56, wherein said protuberance is substantially convexly curved and tapers in height and width in the direction of said ends of said first segment of said first handle portion.

59. (Currently Amended) The carrying case of claim 51, wherein said ends of each of said first segments curve from said second segments, respectively, at about a 45° angle in a direction towards said vertical plane in said engaged position.

60. (Previously Presented) The carrying case of claim 51, wherein said second segments are mounted within sleeve formations on said enclosure.

61. (Currently Amended) A handle for a carrying case that includes an enclosure defining an interior and having a front wall, a back wall, and an opening that provides access to the interior, the handle comprising:

first and second handle portions each comprising a first segment adapted for rotatable mounting on the enclosure on opposite sides of the opening, respectively, and a second segment connecting opposite ends of said first segment, said second segments having central longitudinal axes, respectively, adapted to define parallel axes about which said first segments are rotatable, respectively, for movement between an engaged position, wherein said first segments are in abutment, and a fully disengaged position, wherein said first segments are separated from one another,

said first segments having mating surfaces, respectively, of complementary configurations to mate in said engaged position, wherein the ends of each of said first segments form a continuous curve beginning at the ends of said second segments and ending at said mating surfaces, and wherein said curve has a substantially concave curvature relative to a vertical plane extending from said opening through said mating surfaces ~~said ends of each of said first segments curving continuously inwardly and upwardly from said second segments, respectively, in the direction of said opening~~



in said engaged position, ~~whereby said first segments are disposed closely alongside said front and back walls, respectively, in said fully disengaged position.~~

62. (Previously Presented) The handle of claim 61, wherein said first segments comprise arcuate segments, respectively, and said second segments comprise straight segments, respectively.

63. (Previously Presented) The handle of claim 61, wherein said mating surfaces comprise inner surfaces, respectively of said segments.

64. (Previously Presented) The handle of claim 63, wherein said first segments have top surfaces, respectively, joined to said inner surfaces and forming lips, respectively, where said top surfaces join said inner surfaces, said lips being in abutment when said handle portions are in said engaged position.

65. (Previously Presented) The handle of claim 61, wherein said mating surface of said first handle portion is configured as a protuberance and said mating surface of said second handle portion is configured as a cavity for receiving said protuberance.

66. (Currently Amended) The handle of claim 65, wherein said protuberance has a substantially convex curvature and said cavity has a substantially concave curvature resisting disengagement of said first and second handle portions from said engaged position.

67. (Currently Amended) The handle of claim 65, wherein said protuberance is substantially convexly curved and tapers in height and width in the direction of said ends of said first segment of said first handle portion.

68. (Currently Amended) The handle of claim 61, wherein said ends of each of said first segments curve from said second segments, respectively, at about a 45° angle in a direction towards said vertical plane in said engaged position.

69. (Previously Presented) The handle of claim 61, wherein said second segments are adapted for mounting within sleeve formations on the enclosure.